OCCUPATIONAL INJURIES AND DISEASES IN ALBERTA

Lost-Time Claims, Disabling Injury Claims and Claim Rates

Alberta Motor Transport Association Industries 2005 to 2009

WORK SAFE ALBERTA

Government of Alberta

Summer 2010

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HIGHLIGHTS

Lower lost-time and disabling injury rates in 2009.

- In 2009, the Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) sector lost-time claim rate decreased by 11.8% to 3.37 per 100 person-years worked, from 3.82 in 2008. The average lost-time claim rate for all industries in the province was 1.69 per 100 person-years worked.
- The disabling injury rate decreased by 10.2%, from 5.49 per 100 person-years worked in 2008 to 4.93 in 2009. The average disabling injury rate for all sectors in the province was 3.09 per 100 person-years worked.
- The decreases in the lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in 2009 were the result of decreases in the numbers of lost-time and disabling injury claims. Lost-time claims decreased by 20.2% and disabling injury claims by 18.9%.
- In 2009, the AMTA sector had a duration rate of 123 days, a 6.4% increase from the 2008 rate of 116. This duration rate is higher than the provincial rate of 40 days lost per 100 person-years worked.
- The 2009 fatality rate was 153 per million person-years worked, a decrease of 44.6% from 2008 of 276 per million person-years worked. The average fatality rate for all industries in the province in 2009 was 71 per million person-years worked.

Smaller employers experienced the lowest injury rates.

- Employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the lowest lost-time claim rate in 2009, at 2.58 per 100 person-years worked.
- Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest disabling injury rate at 2.95 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked, 3.20 per 100 person-years worked.
- Lost-time claim and disabling injury rates in the AMTA sector increase with the size of the employer.

Injury rates decreased in all sub-sectors.

- Lost-time claim and disabling injury rates decreased in all AMTA sub-sectors in the year 2009.
- The Specialized Trucking sub-sector had the lowest lost-time claim rate at 2.21 per 100 person-years worked. The Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector had the highest at 4.26 per 100 person-years worked.
- The Specialized Trucking sub-sector had the lowest disabling injury rate at 3.84 per 100 person-years worked. The Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-

sector had the highest at 7.57 per 100 person-years worked.

- The AMTA sector accounted for 3.0% of the person-years worked in the province, 5.9% of the lost-time claims, 4.1% of modified work claims and 4.7% of the disabling injury claims.

In 2009, sprains, strains and tears was the most common nature of injury.

- Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury, accounting for 53.1% of the disabling injury claims submitted in the AMTA sector. Disabling injury claims connected with fractures and dislocations and other traumatic injuries and disorders, however, had proportions 2.2 and 1.6 times higher than the average for all sectors, indicating a higher likelihood of this type of injury occurring.
- The back (including spine and spinal cord) was the most commonly injured body part, accounting for 23.8% of all disabling injury claims. Disabling injury claims connected with multiple body parts and the lower extremities displayed proportions that were 2.5 and 1.9 times the average for all sectors.
- The primary sources of injury causing disabling injury claims were structures and surfaces, accounting for 23.1% of the disabling injury claims, followed by vehicles, 18.7%. Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, vehicles, containers and structures and surfaces displayed proportions that were 4.2, 2.3 and 2.1 times higher than the average for all sectors.
- In 2009, the most common type of event or exposure was bodily reaction or exertion which accounted for 37.6% of lost-time claims and 40.4% of disabling injury claims. Disabling injury claims caused by transportation accidents however had a proportion that was 4.3 times the average for all sectors. Falls to a lower level and falls on the same level had proportions for disabling injury claims that were 2.7 and 2.0 times higher in the AMTA sector than the average for all industries in the province.
- The median work days lost in the AMTA sector was 13, compared to the average for all sectors of the province, seven. The average days lost per claim was 37, compared to the average for all industries in the province, 24 days lost per claim.

A few notes about this report:

- This report presents 2009 data beside 2008 data to help with comparisons. Additional historical data are presented where possible.
- Information presented in this report is based on incidents that occurred during 2009 and were accepted as lost-time or modified work claims by Workers' Compensation Board – Alberta (WCB) as of March 31, 2010.
- Injury claim rates based on a small number of person-years worked are too volatile to make valid comparisons over time. Therefore, claim rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 40 person-years worked. Duration rates are also volatile when based on a small number of lost-time claims. Duration rates are not calculated when there are fewer than 30 lost-time claims.
- Estimates of year-over-year change for rates presented in this report are calculated using unrounded figures and may not match those produced from rounded figures. Percentages displayed in tables may also not total 100, due to rounding.
- Throughout the report, the lost-time claim rate is the number of lost-time claims per 100 person-years worked, the disabling injury rate is the number of disabling injury claims per 100 person-years worked and the duration rate is the number of days lost per 100 person-years worked. Fatality rates are expressed as the number of fatalities per million person-years worked.
- Analyses by industry are based on WCB industry classification and aggregation. For more information see http://ds.wcb.ab.ca/WCB.RateManual.WebServer/alphaindex.aspx.
- Analyses by occupation group are based on the National Occupational Classification (NOC). The NOC provides a standard list of occupations across the country. For more information see http://www5.hrsdc.gc.ca/NOC.
- Occupational injuries and diseases listed throughout this report are based on the Z795 Coding of Work Injury or Disease Information produced by the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) for categorizing occupational injury and disease. For information see http://www.shopcsa.ca/onlinestore/GetCatalogItemDetails.asp?mat=2416404.
- Terms, definitions and formulas used throughout this report are described in Appendix A.

INTRODUCTION

Role of the Ministry of Employment and Immigration

The Ministry of Employment and Immigration includes the reporting entity of the Department of Employment and Immigration (E&I). E&I develops and delivers policies, programs and services to foster labour force development; ensure fair, safe and healthy workplaces; and help those in need. The Department also provides leadership for immigration and interprovincial labour mobility policy for the Government of Alberta, and coordinates resources to support the settlement and integration of new Albertans.

Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta – Alberta Motor Transport Association Sector 2005 to 2009

E&I prepares this annual report to provide analysis of workplace health and safety information to meet the demand from industry and safety associations, labour organizations, employers and workers for incorporating this information into their strategic plans for enhancing workplace health and safety. This includes:

- descriptions of programs and initiatives undertaken in pursuit of its workplace health and safety mission and goals;
- analysis of provincial occupational injury and disease information;
- estimations of the risk of injury or disease at the provincial, industry sector and industries level as well as general descriptions about the incidents and injured workers.

The *Occupational Injuries and Diseases in Alberta* publications present analysis of aggregate injury claim data to allow for the tracking of workplace health and safety performance over time. This is important for evaluating past and present performance, and in providing strategic information for the direction of workplace health and safety policy. The analysis contained in this report provides a comprehensive picture of workplace injuries in the province, allowing for a prevention focus to be made based on injury probabilities, rather than possibilities.

Healthy and Productive Workplaces

E&I promotes safe, healthy and productive workplaces, as well as fair, equitable and stable labour relations to ensure a fair, safe and healthy work environment for Alberta's workers. Work is central to people's lives, and to the stability of families and societies. People want work that provides them with an acceptable standard of living. It is important that workers enter an environment where their health and safety are protected, where they are treated with respect and they are compensated fairly for the job they are doing. This results in an attractive workplace that furthers the position of Alberta employers to be competitive in the

global economy (see Note 1.1). Alongside the human cost of occupational injuries and diseases and the impact on families and society, the economic costs are numerous.

Claim costs for occupational injury and disease by WCB are projected to total $700 million in 2010.[1] These costs are ultimately paid by employers through premium payments, and impact the costs of running a business as well as the final cost of delivering products and services. Further costs associated with occupational injuries and diseases include the material damage to equipment and premises, the additional cost of hiring staff to cover for injured workers, and the lost productivity resulting from the absence. Additional impacts of poor health and safety for employers include higher absenteeism and lower morale of employees, loss of skilled and experienced employees, loss of the company's investment in training, and difficulty recruiting high-quality employees due to the loss of image (particularly in the case of subcontractors to larger companies) all leading to losses in productivity and underutilization of production (see Note 1.2).

Note 1.1
Research by the International Institute for Management Development and the World Economic Forum suggests that the safest-working countries also have the best competitiveness ratings
(ILO, XVIIth World Congress on Safety and Health at Work, Introductory Report: Decent Work-Safe Work, September 2005).

Other costs borne by the economy and society due in part to work-related injuries and diseases include early retirements, unemployment and poorer households. The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that in high-income countries, around 40% of all retirements (before statutory age) are caused by disability. This is equivalent to around 14% of the lifetime working capacity of the employed labour force.[2] Occupational injuries and diseases also affect unemployment and household income levels. Workers with an impairment of capacity can reduce their re-employability and impact household income. Workplace injuries and diseases typically reduce the overall earnings of households and in certain cases, family members have to give up jobs in order to care for an injured worker.

Note 1.2
The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that approximately 4% of Gross Domestic Product is lost due to occupational injuries and diseases (*ILO, World Day for Safety and Health at Work 2009 –Facts on safety and health at work issues, April 2009).*

[1] See the Workers' Compensation Board Alberta 2010 Premium Rate Manual
https://www.wcb.ab.ca/pdfs/employers/10_premium_rate_manual.pdf
[2] See the International Labour Organization report: Safety in numbers – pointers for a global safety culture at work
http://www.ilo.org/public/english/region/eurpro/budapest/download/safety_in_numbers_engl.pdf

PROVINCIAL SUMMARY

The positive trend continues: there were fewer injuries reported and injury rates declined in 2009.

In recent years, improvements were made to the analysis of WCB claim information allowing for modified work claims to be analyzed alongside lost-time claims. Using modified work claim data in addition to lost-time claim data ensures a more comprehensive picture of workplace injuries, and allows for greater insight into incident prevention.

A lost-time claim is a claim submitted to the WCB for an occupational injury or disease that causes a worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function (for example, hearing loss claims).

Note 2.1

- **The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker requiring time away from work, during a period of one year of work.**
- **The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury.**

A modified work claim is submitted for an occupational injury or disease where workers have their normal work duties altered enabling them to remain working without losing time from work. Included in the figures are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease, and cases where workers were provided modified duties prior to time lost because of an injury or disease.

Modifying an injured worker's duties can be beneficial for both an employer and an employee. For the employer, the financial cost of an absent worker can be high and returning an injured employee to work as soon as it is medically possible is important for properly managing compensation, disability claims and productivity levels. For the employee, returning to work as soon as medically possible is beneficial both physically and psychologically, and is linked to quicker recovery rates and higher self-esteem. Long absences from the workplace are also linked to decreases in labor market attachment.

The number of disabling injury claims reflects both the lost-time and modified work concepts and produces an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables a worker causing either time lost from work or for normal work duties to be modified.

In 2009, a total of 26,096 lost-time claims were accepted by WCB. This is a decrease of 16.9% from 2008. The person-years worked estimates decreased by 7.9% to 1,539,738 between 2008 and 2009 (see Table 2.1). Expressed as a lost-time claim rate, the data translates into a rate of 1.69 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 9.8% from 2008, as proportionately there were fewer lost-time injury claims. The 2009 rate is the lowest in

the past nineteen years and since 1991, the lost-time claim rate has decreased by 59.1%. Since 2005, the lost-time claim rate has decreased by 29.7%.

Table 2.1
Provincial Figures – Alberta: 2008 and 2009

	2008	2009	% Change
Person-years worked	1,671,916	**1,539,738**	-7.9%
Lost-time claims	31,410	**26,096**	-16.9%
Lost-time claim rate	1.88	**1.69**	**-9.8%**
Modified-work claims	51,725	**34,818**	-32.7%
Lost-time claims involving modified-work	22,443	**13,409**	-40.3%
Disabling injury claims	60,692	**47,505**	-21.7%
Disabling injury rate	3.63	**3.09**	**-15.0%**
Duration rate	41	**40**	-3.2%
Days lost (LTC)	689,523	**614,757**	-10.8%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$211,054,921	**$195,089,312**	-7.6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The total number of modified work claims submitted in 2009 was 34,818, a decrease of 32.7%. There were 13,409 claims involving both lost-time and modified work, a decrease of 40.3% from 2008. There were 47,505 disabling injury claims, a decrease of 21.7% from 2008. Expressed as a rate, the 2009 disabling injury rate was 3.09 per 100 person-years worked, a decrease of 15.0% from the 2008 rate of 3.63.

Estimates of injury and disease severity are calculated using information on the number of days lost from work. Three basic measures of severity are the duration rate, median days lost from work and average days lost from work. The efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers back into the workforce also have a positive impact on work days lost. The duration rate of 40 days lost per 100 person-years worked was 3.2% lower than in 2008. The median number of work days lost in 2009 was seven, the same as 2008, and the average days lost increased to 24, from 22 in 2008.

Table 2.2 displays the lost-time claim and disabling injury figures and rates for the province, and also for the major industry sectors in Alberta. The data provides a useful setting for analyzing the health and safety performance of the AMTA sector.

The 2009 lost-time claim rate for the AMTA sector of 3.37 per 100 person-years worked is higher than all major industry sectors. The disabling injury rate for the AMTA sector of 4.93 per 100 person-years worked is higher than all major industry sectors.

Table 2.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by Major Industry Sector – Alberta: 2008 and 2009

Major Industry Sector	2008		2009	
	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Alberta	1.88	3.63	**1.69**	**3.09**
Agriculture and Forestry	2.72	3.65	**2.36**	**3.02**
Business, Personal and Professional Services	1.20	1.79	**1.08**	**1.57**
Construction and Construction Trade Services	1.91	4.65	**1.73**	**3.92**
Manufacturing, Processing and Packaging	2.24	5.78	**1.65**	**4.42**
Mining and Petroleum Development	0.66	2.92	**0.53**	**2.03**
Public Administration, Education and Health Services	2.29	3.00	**2.21**	**2.90**
Transportation, Communication and Utilities	2.69	4.42	**2.44**	**3.98**
Wholesale and Retail	1.99	3.44	**1.85**	**3.17**
AMTA Sector	3.82	5.49	**3.37**	**4.93**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

INDUSTRY SECTOR SUMMARY

In 2009, the lost-time claim rate for the Alberta Motor Transport Association Sector was 3.37 per 100 person-years worked.

The Alberta Motor Transport Association (AMTA) sector lost-time claim rate decreased in 2009 by 11.8% to 3.37 per 100 person-years worked, from 3.82 in 2008. The disabling injury rate decreased by 10.2%, from 5.49 per 100 person-years worked in 2008 to 4.93 in 2009 (see Table 3.1). The average lost-time claim rate for all sectors in the province was 1.69 per 100 person-years worked and the average disabling injury rate was 3.09 per 100 person-years worked.

The person-years worked for the AMTA sector decreased by 9.6%. The decreases in the 2009 lost-time claim and disabling injury rates for these industries were the result of a greater decrease in the number of lost-time and disabling injury claims than the decrease in the number of person-years worked. Lost-time claims decreased by 20.2% and disabling injury claims by 18.9%.

Table 3.1
AMTA Sector – Alberta: 2008 - 2009

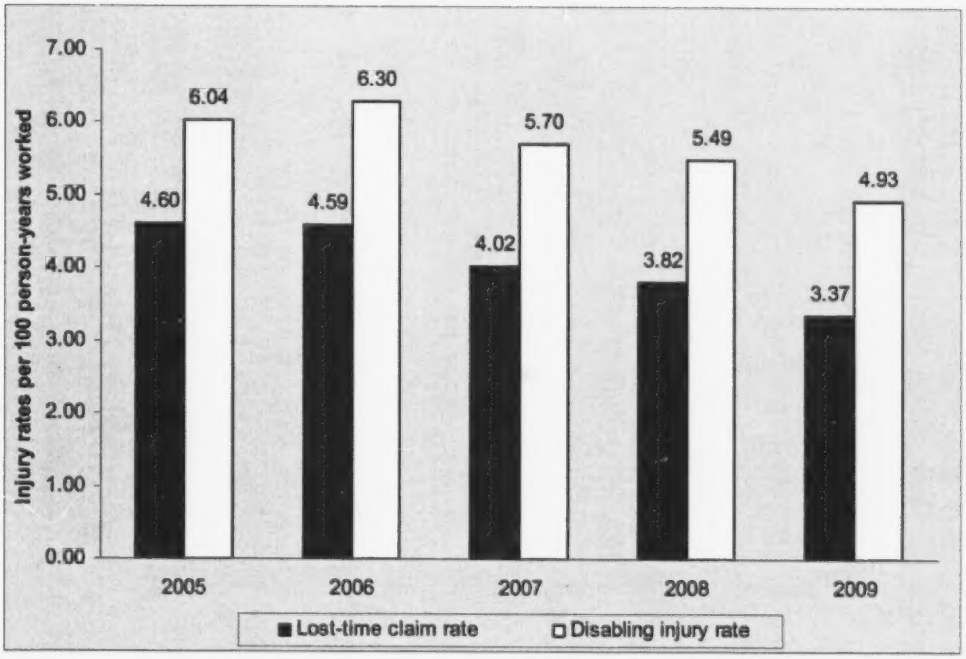
	2008	2009	% Change
Person-years worked	50,669	45,794	-9.6%
Lost-time claims	1,936	1,544	-20.2%
Lost-time claim rate	**3.82**	**3.37**	**-11.8%**
Modified-work claims	2,096	1,413	-32.6%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	1251	701	-44.0%
Disabling injury claims	2,781	2,256	-18.9%
Disabling injury rate	**5.49**	**4.93**	**-10.2%**
Duration rate	116	123	6.4%
Days lost (LTC)	58,626	56,367	-3.9%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$17,938,539	$16,593,262	-7.5%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Estimates of injury and disease severity are calculated using information on the number of days lost from work. Three basic measures of severity are the duration rate, median days lost from work and average days lost from work. In 2009, the AMTA sector had a duration rate of 123, a 6.4% increase from the 2008 rate of 116. The median work days lost was 13, compared to the provincial figure of seven. The average days lost per claim was 37 days lost compared to the average for all industries in the province, 24 days per claim.

Chart 3.1 shows historical lost-time and disabling injury rates for the AMTA sector. The lost-time claim rate for the AMTA sector has decreased by 26.8% since 2005. This rate is lower than the average decrease seen for all sectors of the province, 29.7%. Since 2005, the disabling injury rate decreased by 18.4%. The average decrease in the disabling injury rate since 2005 for all industries in the province was 23.3%.

Chart 3.1
Injury Rates for the AMTA Sector – Alberta: 2005 - 2009



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Rates by Employer Size

In the AMTA sector, employers with 100 or more person-years worked had the highest lost-time claim rate of 4.25 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 20 to 39 person-years worked, 3.19. Employers with 10 to 19 person-years worked had the lowest rate, 2.58 (see Table 3.2).

Employers with more than 100 person-years worked had the highest disabling injury rate at 7.74 per 100 person-years worked, followed by employers with 40 to 99 person-years worked, 4.58 per 100 person-years worked. Employers with less than 10 person-years worked had the lowest disabling injury rate at 2.95. Lost-time claim rates and disabling injury rates in the AMTA sector increase with the size of the employer.

Table 3.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rate by Size of Employer-ATMA Sector: 2009

Size of Employer	Number of Accounts	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate
Less than 10 person-years worked	15,290	15,381	423	454	2.75	2.95
10 to 19 person-years worked	291	4,150	107	133	2.58	3.20
20 to 39 person-years worked	176	4,893	156	202	3.19	4.13
40 to 99 person-years worked	117	7,047	214	323	3.04	4.58
100 or more person-years worked	54	14,322	609	1108	4.25	7.74
Unspecified	7	N/A*	35	36	N/A*	N/A*

* These are employers with no payroll information or with person-years worked equal to zero
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of Injury Claims

For the AMTA sector, 96% of employers had no lost-time claims and 95% of employers had no disabling injury claims. In other words, the injuries and diseases happening are the result of incidents occurring at the operations of about 5% of employers. In 2009, the number of employers with no lost-time claims and the number of employers with no disabling injury claims translates to approximately 49% and 44% of the total person-years worked in the AMTA sector respectively (see Table 4.10).

Among those employers with claims, 73% of the employers submitted one lost-time claim, 22% two to five claims and around 6% six or more lost-time claims. For disabling injury claims, 70% of the employers submitted one disabling injury claim, 22% two to five claims and 7% six or more disabling injury claims.

Employers that submitted one to five lost-time claims and employers that submitted one to five disabling injury claims accounted for 28% and 26% of the total person-years worked in the AMTA sector respectively. Employers that submitted six or more lost-time claims and employers that submitted six or more disabling injury claims accounted for approximately 23% and 29% of the total person-years worked in the AMTA sector.

INDUSTRY SECTOR ANALYSIS

The Specialized Trucking sub-sector has the lowest lost-time claim rate of all the AMTA sub-sectors.

Between 2005 and 2009, the Specialized Trucking sub-sector displayed a 41.6% decrease in lost-time claim rate. This is the largest decrease in its lost-time claim rate since 2005, and it has had the lowest lost-time claim rate in 2009, 2.21 per 100 person-years worked (see Table 4.1).

Table 4.1
Lost-Time Claim Rate by AMTA Sub-Sector — Alberta: 2005-2009

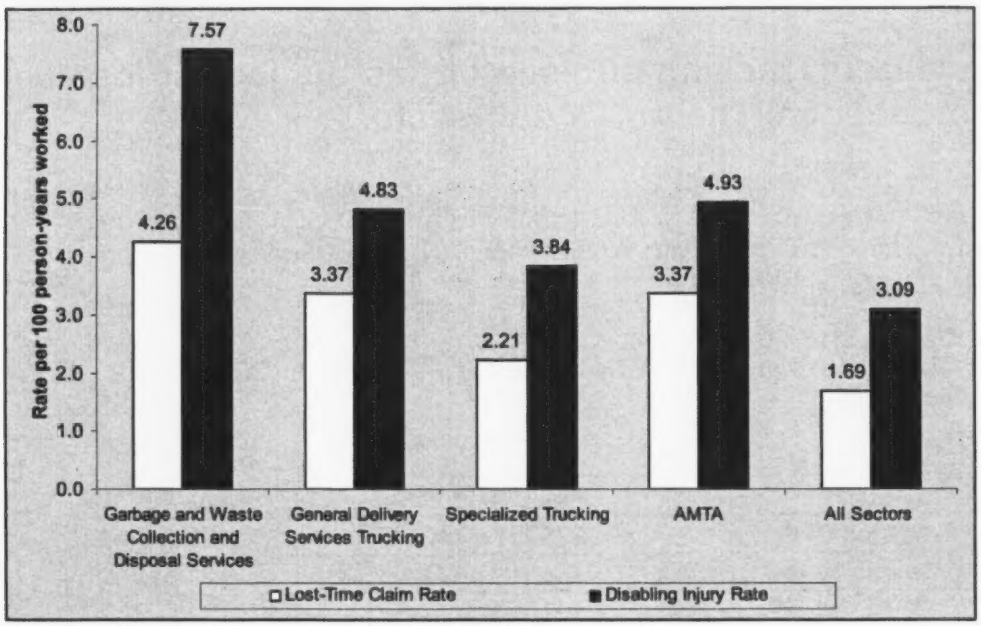
Sub-Sector	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009
AMTA	4.60	4.59	4.02	3.82	**3.37**
Specialized Trucking	3.79	4.00	2.65	2.23	**2.21**
General Delivery Services Trucking	4.66	4.64	4.04	3.88	**3.37**
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	4.39	4.31	5.07	4.39	**4.26**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Table 4.1 shows that lost-time claim rates have decreased for all the industries since 2005. For example, in 2009 the General Delivery Services Trucking sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 3.37 per 100 person-years worked, a 27.6% decrease from 2005. In 2009, the Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector had the highest lost-time claim rate at 4.26 per 100 person-years worked. This rate has decreased by 2.8% from the rate in 2005.

In 2009, the Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector had the highest disabling injury rate at 7.57 per 100 person-years worked. This rate has decreased by 13.3% from the rate in 2008. The Specialized Trucking sub-sector had the lowest injury rate at 3.84 per 100 person-years worked. Overall, all the AMTA sub-sectors have higher lost-time claim rates and disabling injury rates than the average rate for all industries of the province (see Chart 4.1).

Chart 4.1
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates by AMTA Sub-Sector — Alberta: 2009



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Specialized Trucking

In 2009, the Specialized Trucking sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 2.21 per 100 person-years worked, a 1.0% decrease from 2008. The disabling injury rate was 3.84 per 100 person-years worked. The duration rate decreased from 122 days lost per 100 person-years worked in 2008 to 117 in 2009, a decrease of 3.9% (see Table 4.2). Between 2005 and 2009, the Specialized Trucking sub-sector experienced a 41.6% decrease in its lost-time claim rate.

Table 4.2
Specialized Trucking — Alberta: 2008-2009

	2008	2009	% Change
Person-years worked	2,417	**1,718**	-28.9%
Lost-time claims	54	**38**	-29.6%
Lost-time claim rate	**2.23**	**2.21**	**-1.0%**
Modified-work claims	87	**44**	-49.4%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	35	**16**	-54.3%
Disabling injury claims	106	**66**	-37.7%
Disabling injury rate	**4.39**	**3.84**	**-12.4%**
Duration rate	122	**117**	-3.9%
Days lost (LTC)	2,938	**2,007**	-31.7%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$782,964	**$474,541**	-39.4%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

General Delivery Services Trucking

The General Delivery Services Trucking sub-sector was the largest in the AMTA sector, representing 91.2% of person-years worked, 91.2% of lost-time claims, and 89.4% of disabling injury claims in these industries. The lost-time claim rate in 2009 was 3.37 per 100 person-years worked, a 13.1% decrease from 2008. The disabling injury rate was 4.83 per 100 person-years worked. The duration rate increased from 117 days lost per 100 person-years worked in 2008 to 125 in 2009 (see Table 4.3). Since 2005, the lost-time claim rate in the General Delivery Services Trucking sub-sector has decreased by 27.6%.

Table 4.3
General Delivery Services Trucking — Alberta: 2008-2009

	2008	2009	% Change
Person-years worked	46,180	**41,777**	-9.5%
Lost-time claims	1,791	**1,408**	-21.4%
Lost-time claim rate	**3.88**	**3.37**	**-13.1%**
Modified-work claims	1,852	**1,231**	-33.5%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	1,149	**623**	-45.8%
Disabling injury claims	2,494	**2,016**	-19.2%
Disabling injury rate	**5.40**	**4.83**	**-10.6%**
Duration rate	117	**125**	6.4%
Days lost (LTC)	54,075	**52,073**	-3.7%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$16,600,972	**$15,220,234**	-8.3%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services

The Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector had a lost-time claim rate of 4.26, while the disabling injury rate was 7.57 per 100 person-years worked, the highest in the AMTA sector. The duration rate increased from 78 in 2008 to 99 days lost per 100 person-years worked in 2009 (see Table 4.4).

Between 2005 and 2009, the lost-time claim rate for the Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector dropped by 2.8%, from 4.39 in 2005 to 4.26 per 100 person-years worked in 2009.

Table 4.4
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services — Alberta: 2008-2009

	2008	2009	% Change
Person-years worked	2,072	2,299	10.9%
Lost-time claims	91	98	7.7%
Lost-time claim rate	**4.39**	**4.26**	**-2.9%**
Modified-work claims	157	138	-12.1%
Lost-time claims involving modified work	67	62	-7.5%
Disabling injury claims	181	174	-3.9%
Disabling injury rate	**8.74**	**7.57**	**-13.3%**
Duration rate	78	99	27.8%
Days lost (LTC)	1,613	2,287	41.8%
Transaction claim costs (LTC)	$554,603	$898,487	62.0%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Distribution of injury claims

Table 4.5 presents figures for the proportion of employers without lost-time or disabling injury claims in 2009, by sub-sector. Table 4.6 displays figures on the proportion of the person-years worked accounted for by employers without lost-time or disabling injury claims. Table 4.7 displays figures for the number of claims submitted by employers.

Table 4.5
Proportion of Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, for the AMTA Sector – Alberta: 2009

Proportion of Employers by Sub-Sector	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
AMTA	**96%**	**95%**
Specialized Trucking	97%	96%
General Delivery Services Trucking	96%	95%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	88%	87%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The Specialized Trucking sub-sector had a higher proportion of employers with no lost-time claims than the average for all AMTA sub-sectors, indicating a more highly concentrated occurrence of injury in this sub-sector (see Table 4.5). In 2009, the number of employers in this sub-sector with no lost-time claims and the number of employers with no disabling injury claims translates to approximately 69% and 49% of the total person-years worked (see Table 4.6).

Table 4.6
Proportion of Person-years accounted for by Employers with no Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, for the AMTA Sub-Sectors – Alberta: 2009

Proportion of person-years accounted for by employers	With no Lost-Time Claims	With no Disabling Injury Claims
AMTA	**49%**	**44%**
Specialized Trucking	69%	49%
General Delivery Services Trucking	49%	45%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	34%	30%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

For employers who did submit claims, the Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector had the highest proportion submitting over six claims. This is partly a reflection of the risks of working in these industries, but it is also influenced by the number and size of employers (see Table 4.7).

Table 4.7
Proportion of Employers with Lost-Time or Disabling Injury Claims, for the AMTA Sub-Sectors – Alberta: 2009

Sub-Sector	1 Lost-Time Claim	2 to 5 Lost-Time Claims	6 to 20 Lost-Time Claims	Over 20 Lost-Time Claims
Specialized Trucking	83%	17%	0%	0%
General Delivery Services Trucking	73%	21%	4%	2%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	58%	32%	6%	3%

Sub-Sector	1 Disabling Injury Claim	2 to 5 Disabling Injury Claims	6 to 20 Disabling Injury Claims	Over 20 Disabling Injury Claims
Specialized Trucking	74%	21%	5%	0%
General Delivery Services Trucking	70%	22%	5%	2%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	56%	29%	9%	6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

DEMOGRAPHICS OF INJURED WORKERS

Injured Worker Characteristics

In 2009, the Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers (Excluding Labourers) occupational group accounted for 71.8% of lost-time claims, 64.7% of disabling injury claims and 26.6% of those in employment in the AMTA sector. In contrast, clerical occupations accounted for 6.8% of lost-time claims, 9.3% of disabling injury claims and 14.9% of those in employment in the AMTA sector (see Table 5.1).

Table 5.1
Lost-Time and Disabling Injury Claims by Selected Occupation Group — the AMTA Sector: 2009

Occupation Group	Lost-time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Employment
Transportation Equipment Operators and Related Workers, Excl. Labourers	71.8%	64.7%	26.6%
Trades Helpers, Construction, and Transportation Labourers and Related Occupations	12.2%	14.8%	5.6%
Clerical Occupations	6.8%	9.3%	14.9%
Mechanics	3.2%	3.9%	3.7%
Heavy Equipment and Crane Operators (Including Drillers)	1.0%	1.4%	2.8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation; Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files)

In 2009, 55.8% of lost-time claims and 52.1% of disabling injury claims in the AMTA sector were from workers aged between 35 and 54 years. Young workers, aged 15 to 24 years, accounted for 7.8% of lost-time claims, 10.6% of disabling injury claims and approximately 8.2% of those in employment[3] (see Table 5.2).

[3] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities industries

Table 5.2
Lost-Time Claims by Age — the AMTA Sector: 2008-2009

Age	2008				2009			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
15-19 Years	50	2.6%	99	3.6%	21	1.4%	48	2.1%
20-24 Years	149	7.7%	269	9.7%	99	6.4%	192	8.5%
25-34 Years	366	18.9%	597	21.5%	272	17.6%	480	21.3%
35-44 Years	518	26.8%	736	26.5%	417	27.0%	582	25.8%
45-54 Years	484	25.0%	653	23.5%	444	28.8%	594	26.3%
55-64 Years	296	15.3%	348	12.5%	237	15.3%	299	13.3%
65+ Years	73	3.8%	79	2.8%	54	3.5%	61	2.7%
Unspecified	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A	0	N/A
Total	**1,936**	**100.0%**	**2,781**	**100.0%**	**1,544**	**100.0%**	**2,256**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the AMTA sector, the majority of claims were from men. In 2009, 92.1% of lost-time claims and 90.5% of disabling injury claims involved men, while they made up approximately 74.1% of those in employment[4]. In contrast women accounted for 7.9% of lost-time claims, 9.5% of disabling injury claims and 25.9% of those in employment (see Table 5.3).

Table 5.3
Lost-Time Claims by Gender — the AMTA Sector: 2008-2009

Gender	2008				2009			
	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Women	181	9.3%	295	10.6%	122	7.9%	215	9.5%
Men	1,755	90.7%	2,477	89.4%	1,422	92.1%	2,037	90.5%
Unspecified	0	N/A	9	N/A	0	N/A	4	N/A
Total	**1,936**	**100.0%**	**2,781**	**100.0%**	**1,544**	**100.0%**	**2,256**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[4] Statistics Canada, Labour Force Survey (Microdata Files) for the Transportation, Warehousing and Utilities industries

INJURY AND DISEASE ANALYSIS

Overexertion was the most common cause for lost-time claims. Sprains, strains and tears continued to be the leading nature of injury with the trunk being the most commonly injured body part.

Nature of Injury or Disease

The nature of injury is used to identify the physical characteristics of the injury or disease. In 2009, 94.0% of lost-time claims and 95.0% of disabling injury claims were caused by traumatic injuries and disorders. The three most common traumatic injuries and disorders were: sprains, strains and tears, fractures and dislocations, and surface wounds and bruises (see Table 6.1).

Note 6.1
Throughout this section, the classifications used are based on the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) standards for categorizing occupational injury and disease information.

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the AMTA sector had higher proportions[5] of lost-time claims and disabling injury claims than the average in most injury categories. Lost-time claims for fractures and dislocations and other traumatic injuries and disorders had proportions 2.6 and 2.1 times higher than the average for all sectors, indicating a higher likelihood of this type of injury occurring. For disabling injury claims these injury categories had proportions that were 2.2 and 1.6 times higher than the average for all sectors.

Note 6.2
The CSA standard is designed so that Nature of Injury and Part of Body categories are directly linked when classifying injuries. This is also true for the relationship between the Source of Injury and Type of Event categories.

[5] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA sector's claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.1
Nature of Injury or Disease — AMTA: 2009

Nature of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury claims	%
Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	**1,451**	**94.0%**	**2,143**	**95.0%**
Sprains, Strains and Tears	788	51.0%	1,198	53.1%
Fractures and Dislocations	207	13.4%	248	11.0%
Surface Wounds and Bruises	185	12.0%	301	13.3%
Open Wounds	51	3.3%	102	4.5%
Burns	22	1.4%	27	1.2%
Other Traumatic Injuries and Disorders	198	12.8%	267	11.8%
Systemic Diseases and Disorders	**83**	**5.4%**	**99**	**4.4%**
Infectious and Parasitic Disorders	**1**	**0.1%**	**1**	**<0.1%**
Neoplasms, Tumors and Cancer	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Symptoms, Signs and Ill-Defined Conditions	**4**	**0.3%**	**6**	**0.3%**
Multiple Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**1**	**0.1%**	**1**	**<0.1%**
Other Diseases, Conditions and Disorders	**3**	**0.2%**	**4**	**0.2%**
Nature of Injury - Unknown	**1**	**0.1%**	**2**	**0.1%**
Total	**1,544**	**100.0%**	**2,256**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Part of Body Injured

In 2009, the trunk was the main injured body part, accounting for 38.9% of lost-time claims and 38.7% of disabling injury claims in the AMTA sector, followed by lower extremities at 24.7% and 24.1%. The most common trunk injury was to the back, including spine and spinal cord, representing 24.5% of lost-time claims and 23.8% of disabling injury claims (see Table 6.2).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the AMTA sector had higher proportions[6] of lost-time claims in most injury categories. For lost-time claims, multiple body parts and the lower extremities had the highest proportions, 3.0 and 2.3 times higher in the AMTA sector than the average for all sectors in the province. For disabling injury claims, these body parts were 2.5 and 1.9 times higher.

[6] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA sector's claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.2
Part of Body Injured — AMTA: 2009

Part of Body Injured	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Trunk	**601**	**38.9%**	**872**	**38.7%**
Back, Including Spine, Spinal Cord	378	24.5%	536	23.8%
Other Trunk	223	14.4%	336	14.9%
Lower Extremities	**381**	**24.7%**	**543**	**24.1%**
Ankle(s) and Foot (Feet) Except Toes	172	11.1%	260	11.5%
Leg(s)	190	12.3%	262	11.6%
Other Lower Extremities	19	1.2%	21	0.9%
Upper Extremities	**226**	**14.6%**	**419**	**18.6%**
Wrist(s) and Hand(s) Except Finger(s)	95	6.2%	176	7.8%
Finger(s), Fingernail(s)	55	3.6%	130	5.8%
Other Upper Extremities	76	4.9%	113	5.0%
Multiple Body Parts	**174**	**11.3%**	**209**	**9.3%**
Head	**109**	**7.1%**	**141**	**6.3%**
Eye(s)	19	1.2%	31	1.4%
Other Head Parts	90	5.8%	110	4.9%
Neck, Including Throat	**44**	**2.8%**	**62**	**2.7%**
Body Systems	**9**	**0.6%**	**10**	**0.4%**
Part of Body - Unknown	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Other Body Parts	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Total	**1,544**	**100.0%**	**2,256**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Source of Injury or Disease

The source of injury or disease describes the object or substance that the worker came into contact resulting in an injury or disease. In 2009, structures and surfaces and vehicles, the two primary sources of injury, accounted for 45.9% of lost-time claims and 41.8% of disabling injury claims (see Table 6.3).

Compared to the average for all sectors in the province, the AMTA sector had higher proportions of lost-time claims in most injury categories.[7] Vehicles, containers, and structures and surfaces displayed proportions that were 5.2, 2.4 and 2.3 times higher than the average for all sectors. For disabling injury claims, these sources of injury had proportions that were 4.2, 2.3 and 2.1 times higher than the average for all sectors.

[7] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA sector's claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.3
Source of Injury or Disease — AMTA: 2009

Source of Injury	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Vehicles	**329**	**21.3%**	**422**	**18.7%**
Structures and Surfaces	**380**	**24.6%**	**522**	**23.1%**
Persons, Plants, Animals and Minerals	**243**	**15.7%**	**364**	**16.1%**
Person-Injured or Ill Worker	221	14.3%	338	15.0%
Minerals - Metallic or Nonmetallic (except fuel)	10	0.6%	13	0.6%
Person-Other Than Injured or Ill Worker*	4	0.3%	4	0.2%
Other Persons, Plants, Animals & Minerals	8	0.5%	9	0.4%
Containers**	**198**	**12.8%**	**358**	**15.9%**
Parts and Materials	**164**	**10.6%**	**260**	**11.5%**
Tools, Instruments and Equipment	**45**	**2.9%**	**82**	**3.6%**
Hand Tools - Nonpowered	16	1.0%	35	1.6%
Hand Tools - Powered	1	0.1%	6	0.3%
Other Tools and Equipment	28	1.8%	41	1.8%
Machinery	**41**	**2.7%**	**67**	**3.0%**
Furniture and Fixtures	**27**	**1.7%**	**40**	**1.8%**
Chemicals and Chemical Products	**19**	**1.2%**	**22**	**1.0%**
Other Sources	**82**	**5.3%**	**98**	**4.3%**
Source of Injury - Unknown	**16**	**1.0%**	**21**	**0.9%**
Total	**1,544**	**100.0%**	**2,256**	**100.0%**

* Person – other than injured or ill worker: classifies workplace injuries or illnesses inflicted by family members as well as non-family relations, including co-workers, former co-workers, and patients.
** Containers: classifies receptacles that are commonly used to hold, store or carry materials (examples: dishes, cups and glasses, luggage, etc.).
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Type of Event or Exposure

The type of event or exposure describes the incident or event that occurred at the time of the exposure that directly resulted in the injury or disease. The most common type of injury or exposure in 2009 was bodily reaction or exertion which accounted for 37.6% of lost-time claims and 40.4% of disabling injury claims.

Lost-time claims caused by transportation accidents had a proportion[8] that was 5.2 times higher in the AMTA sector than the average for all sectors in the province. Disabling injury claims for this category were 4.3 times higher than the average for all sectors. Falls to a lower level and falls on the same level had proportions for lost-time claims that were 3.0 and 2.2 times higher in the AMTA sector than the average for all sectors in the province. For disabling injury claims these types of events had proportions 2.7 and 2.0 times higher than the average for all sectors in the province.

[8] The proportion or number of times higher or lower compares the AMTA sector's claim rate and proportion of injuries by each injury type against the average claim rate and injury proportion for all sectors in the province. A value equal to 1 indicates an equal probability or likelihood to the average. A value higher than 1 indicates an increased likelihood of this type of injury occurring, and a value less than one indicates a lower likelihood. See Appendix A for calculation details.

Table 6.4
Type of Event or Exposure — AMTA: 2009

Type of Event or Exposure	Lost-Time Claims	%	Disabling Injury Claims	%
Bodily Reaction or Exertion	**581**	**37.6%**	**911**	**40.4%**
Overexertion	324	21.0%	516	22.9%
Bodily Reaction*	183	11.9%	271	12.0%
Repetitive Motion	19	1.2%	38	1.7%
Other Bodily Reaction/Exertion	55	3.6%	86	3.8%
Contact with Objects or Equipment	**284**	**18.4%**	**478**	**21.2%**
Struck by Object	154	10.0%	260	11.5%
Caught in Object	63	4.1%	112	5.0%
Struck against Object	45	2.9%	71	3.1%
Rubbed or Abraded	13	0.8%	18	0.8%
Other Contact with Object/Equipment	9	0.6%	17	0.8%
Falls	**399**	**25.8%**	**538**	**23.8%**
Fall on Same Level	239	15.5%	336	14.9%
Fall to Lower Level	131	8.5%	165	7.3%
Other Falls	29	1.9%	37	1.6%
Transportation Accidents	**202**	**13.1%**	**242**	**10.7%**
Exposure to Harmful Substances	**64**	**4.1%**	**71**	**3.1%**
Assaults and Violent Acts	**7**	**0.5%**	**7**	**0.3%**
Assaults and Violent Acts by Person(s)	3	0.2%	3	0.1%
Other Assaults and Violent Acts	4	0.3%	4	0.2%
Fires and Explosions	**2**	**0.1%**	**3**	**0.1%**
Other Events or Exposures	**0**	**0.0%**	**0**	**0.0%**
Type of Event - Unknown	**5**	**0.3%**	**6**	**0.3%**
Total	**1,544**	**100.0%**	**2,256**	**100.0%**

* Bodily reaction: injuries or illnesses resulting from a single incident of free bodily motion which imposed stress or strain on some part of the body.
Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Duration of Disability

Duration of disability[9] is intended to reflect the severity of the effects of occupational injury and disease as reflected by the number of days off work. However, the efforts of employers to introduce modified work programs to integrate injured workers more quickly back into the workforce can reduce workdays lost.

In 2009, 38.3% of claims had duration of disability of less than ten days, while 23.3% of the total lost-time claims resulted in 51 days or more lost from work (see Table 6.5). For all sectors in the province, 53.2% of lost-time claims had duration of disability of less than ten days, while 13.8% of claims required 51 or more days away from work.

Table 6.5
Duration of Disability — Alberta: 2009

Duration of Disability	% of AMTA Sector's Lost-Time Claims	% of Lost-Time Claims in the Province
1-5 Days	26.6%	39.9%
6-10 Days	11.8%	13.4%
11-15 Days	7.1%	7.6%
16-20 Days	5.4%	5.0%
21-30 Days	7.4%	6.7%
31-40 Days	5.2%	4.7%
41-50 Days	5.3%	3.4%
51 Days or More	23.3%	13.8%
Unspecified	8.1%	5.6%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[9] The duration of disability refers to the length of time, in days, for which the worker receives wage compensation from the WCB.

SECTION 7

OCCUPATIONAL FATALITIES

In 2009 WCB accepted seven fatalities in the AMTA sector, accounting for 6.4% of all 110 fatalities in the province.

A WCB accepted occupational fatality is defined as the death of a worker resulting from a work-related incident or exposure which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. Some of the fatalities accepted in a particular year occurred in prior years. Unless otherwise specified, occupational fatalities in this report refer to occupational fatalities accepted by the WCB. The WCB classifies occupational fatalities into three general types:

Motor Vehicle Incidents

Motor vehicle incidents typically involve non-industrial vehicles operating on public roads in which the fatally injured worker was either the driver or a passenger. This type of occupational fatality also includes cases involving aircraft crashes, train crashes, helicopter crashes and water vehicle crashes. In 2009, five of the seven AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were motor vehicle incidents (see Table 7.1).

Workplace Incidents

Workplace incidents consisted of cases in which the worker died at a worksite or as a result of injuries sustained at a worksite. This is the type of fatality that E&I typically investigates. In 2009, two of AMTA fatalities accepted by the WCB were workplace incidents (see Table 7.1).

Latent Workplace and Motor Vehicle Fatalities

Latent fatalities consist of workers who were involved in a workplace incident or exposure, or a motor vehicle incident that did not become a fatality until a much later date, often years later. These incidents were classified as occupational diseases. From 2002, these incidents are separated out and included with either motor vehicle or workplace incident categories in accordance to their original injury.

Usually, other contributing factors cause a latent fatality, although these contributing factors are the result of the initial injury or exposure. A motor vehicle incident, where a worker received leg injuries requiring surgery is a good example of this. Complications during the surgery result in a blood clot causing a fatal stroke. Thus, the injury is classified latent because the original injury caused the requirement for surgery. In 2009, there was no latent workplace fatality in the AMTA sector.

Occupational Disease

Occupational disease fatalities consist mostly of recognized occupational disease, that is, disease known to be primarily or exclusively work-related such as asbestosis and coal workers' pneumoconiosis. This category also includes heart attacks suffered on the job. Occupational diseases are frequently diagnosed several years after the initial or crucial exposure to the toxic substance, and in such cases, it is difficult to determine when the fatal exposure occurred. *The occupational disease category, therefore, should not be interpreted to reflect present worksite hazardous conditions or exposures.*

Each year the WCB accepts some occupational fatality claims for compensation. Occupational fatality claims that were accepted in a particular year may include fatalities from prior years. In 2009, there was no occupational disease fatality accepted by WCB in the AMTA sector (see Table 7.1).

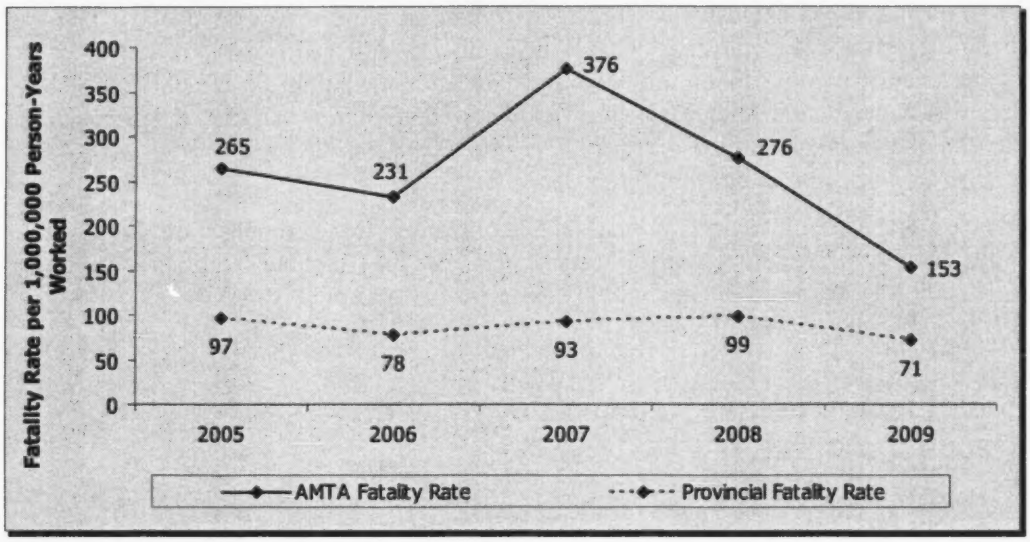
Table 7.1
Types of Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB – AMTA: 2005 - 2009

Year	Motor Vehicle Incident		Workplace Incident		Occupational Disease		Total
	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities	%	Number of Fatalities
2005	8	66.7%	2	16.7%	2	16.7%	12
2006	8	72.7%	2	18.2%	1	9.1%	11
2007	14	73.7%	5	26.3%	0	0.0%	19
2008	8	57.1%	5	35.7%	1	7.1%	14
2009	**5**	**71.4%**	**2**	**28.6%**	**0**	**0.0%**	**7**
Total	**43**	**68.3%**	**16**	**25.4%**	**4**	**6.3%**	**63**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

The fatality rate provides an estimate of the number of fatalities in a particular year compared to the size of the working population in a particular year. It is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities in the year by the number of estimated person-years worked. The result is expressed as fatalities "per million person-years worked." The 2009 fatality rate in the AMTA sector was 153 per million person-years worked (see Chart 7.1). The average fatality rate for all sectors in the province in 2009 was 71 per million person-years worked.

Chart 7.1
Fatality Rate[10] in the AMTA sector: 2005-2009



Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

Between 2005 and 2009, the WCB accepted 63 fatalities in the AMTA sector. The General Delivery Services Trucking sub-sector accounted for the majority with 53 accepted fatalities, representing 84.1% of all fatalities in the AMTA sector (see Table 7.2).

Table 7.2
AMTA Occupational Fatalities Accepted by the WCB by Sub-Sector – Alberta: 2005 - 2009

Industry	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	Number of Fatalities	%
General Delivery Services Trucking	9	9	15	13	7	53	84.1%
Specialized Trucking	2	1	3	1	0	7	11.1%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	1	1	1	0	0	3	4.8%
AMTA	**12**	**11**	**19**	**14**	**7**	**63**	**100.0%**

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[10] Estimates are based upon information provided by the WCB. Fatalities occurring under the Government of Canada's jurisdiction are excluded from the calculation of the fatality rates.

CERTIFICATE OF RECOGNITION

A Certificate of Recognition (COR) is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards. Certificates are jointly issued by Certifying Partners and E&I[11].

In 2009, 6.9% of the AMTA sector's employers were COR holders. These employers accounted for 43.9% of all person-years worked in the AMTA sector. The Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services sub-sector had the highest proportion with 10.3% of employers in this sub-sector holding a valid COR in 2009, covering 69.8% of person-years worked in this sub-sector (see Table 8.1).

Table 8.1
Employers With Valid COR — Alberta: 2009

Sub-Sector	Number of Certified Employers	Total Number of Employers	% of Total Employers Certified	% of Total Person-Years Certified
AMTA	**1,092**	**15,935**	**6.9%**	**43.9%**
General Delivery Services Trucking	975	14,753	6.6%	41.6%
Specialized Trucking	90	921	9.8%	65.7%
Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services	27	261	10.3%	69.8%

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

In the AMTA sector, the lost-time claim rate for COR holders was 3.09 per 100 person-years worked in 2009, while the rate for non-COR holders was 3.59. For disabling injury rates, COR holders had a rate of 5.29 per 100 person-years worked, while the rate for non-COR holders was 4.64 (see Table 8.2).

Comparing COR holders against all non-COR holders provides useful information about each group, although it does not compare like-with-like. A COR is given to employers who develop health and safety programs that meet established standards, with this group seeing continued improvement in their lost-time claim rates. Some non-COR holders have good programs in place above this standard, whereas others do not. This makes evaluating improving health and safety trends less clear for this group.

[11] For more information on the COR program visit http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html

The two groups also differ significantly in employer structure and size. COR holders account for 6.9% of employers in the AMTA sector (see Table 8.1) but 43.9% of the person-years worked. Analysis by employer size for all sectors of the province[12] and for the AMTA sector show smaller employers tend to have better health and safety performance than medium-sized and large employers (see Table 3.2). Smaller employers can find it easier to adjust working practices or introduce set standards, due in part to the size of their operations. The higher levels of health and safety performance observed for small employers also reflects the different type of work undertaken by employers of different sizes.

Table 8.2
Lost-Time Claim and Disabling Injury Rates for the AMTA sector COR Holders — Alberta: 2008-2009

Employer	Year	Number of Accounts	Person-Years	Lost-Time Claims	Disabling Injury Claims	Lost-Time Claim Rate	Disabling Injury Rate	Change in Lost-Time Claim Rate	Change in Disabling Injury Rate
COR	2008	1,087	21,906	822	1,343	3.75	6.13	-17.6%	-13.7%
	2009	1,092	20,114	621	1,065	3.09	5.29		
Non-COR	2008	15,419	28,764	1,114	1,438	3.87	5.00	-7.2%	-7.2%
	2009	14,843	25,679	923	1,191	3.59	4.64		

Data Source: WCB Data, Prepared by Data Development and Evaluation

[12] See the *Occupational Injury and Diseases in Alberta 2009 Summary* publication http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/129.html

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APPENDIX A: TERMS, DEFINITIONS AND FORMULAS

Lost-Time Claim

A lost-time claim (LTC) is a claim for an occupational injury or disease that causes the worker to have time away from work beyond the day of injury. Included are claims receiving reimbursement of full or partial lost wages due to occupational illness or injury, or payment for permanent loss of function.

Modified Work Claim

A modified work claim is a claim for an occupational injury or disease where a worker had their normal work duties altered to enable them to remain working without losing time from work. Also included are claims where injured workers are helped back into the workplace with modified duties after time lost due to injury or disease.

Disabling Injury Claim

Disabling injury (DI) claims combine both the lost-time and modified work concepts to produce an overall figure where an occupational injury or disease disables the worker causing either time-lost from work or for their normal work duties to be modified.

Person-Years Worked

Person-years worked are estimates calculated from wage and payroll data provided by account holders to the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration uses data to estimate an average industry wage, and uses the average industry wage and employer payroll data to estimate person-years worked for each employer and each industry. One person-year is equivalent to one full-time worker working for one year, and can be assumed to equal 2,000 hours worked.

Lost-Time Claim Rate

The lost-time claim rate is calculated by dividing the number of lost-time claims by the person-year estimate, and multiplying the result by 100. The lost-time claim rate represents the probability or risk of an injury or disease to a worker during a period of one-year work, which will result in time lost from work. Comparisons of lost-time claim rates between industries, or between years, can be used to indicate increases, decreases, or differences in this risk.

$$\text{LTC Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of LTC's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Disabling Injury Rate

The disabling injury rate is calculated by dividing the number of disabling injury claims by the person-year estimates, and multiplying the result by 100. The disabling injury rate represents the probability or risk of a disabling injury or disease to a worker during a period of one year of work. The disabling injury rate is similar to the LTC rate although it covers a broader range of injuries, including those that are less severe in nature (do not require time away from work). The rate represents the number of claims per 100 person-years worked and includes claims made for both lost-time and modified work.

$$\text{Disabling Injury Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of DI's}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Duration (Days lost)

The duration of disability is the number of days following the injury or disease for which the worker was disabled and unable to perform normal work duties. This information is obtained for this report from data on compensation days paid on each claim from the WCB. Alberta Employment and Immigration obtains these data on March 31 of the year following the claim year, and does not update the information, even though many injured workers continue to be disabled beyond this date. As a result, the duration information reported here underestimates the true impact of lost-time injury and disease, although it provides a consistent method for reporting and observing trends in duration.

Duration Rate

The duration rate is calculated by dividing the number of workdays lost (disability days) by the person-year estimate, and multiplying by 100. The result is expressed as days lost per 100 person-years worked, and indicates, in part, the economic impact of occupational injury and disease. Duration rates are not recommended as reliable indicators of full economic cost. In addition, readers are warned that duration rates are highly unstable when based on only a few lost-time claims; it is recommended that the duration rate not be calculated based upon fewer than 30 lost-time claims.

$$\text{Duration Rate} = \frac{\text{Disability Days}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 100$$

Industry Coverage

About 80% of employed persons in Alberta are covered by WCB. This report focuses on all industry activity in Alberta covered by the WCB and by the provincial legislation for occupational health and safety. Most industry sectors are included but notable exceptions consist of the Government of Canada, and parts of the agriculture and finance sectors. Several professional groups (i.e. the teaching and medical professions) are also excluded as are some industries where WCB coverage is not compulsory.

WCB Accepted Fatality

An occupational fatality is the death of a worker which resulted from a work-related incident or exposure and which has been accepted by the WCB for compensation. A fatality is counted in the year it is accepted.

Fatality Rate

The fatality rate is calculated by dividing the number of accepted fatalities by the person-years worked estimate and multiplying the result by one million. The result is expressed as fatalities per million person-years worked. Fatalities that are found under the jurisdiction of the Government of Canada are excluded before the calculation of the fatality rate.

$$\text{Fatality Rate} = \frac{\text{Number of Fatalities}}{\text{Person-years worked}} \times 1{,}000{,}000$$

Number of Times Higher/Lower Than the Provincial Average

The number of times higher/lower than the provincial average is used to compare the performance of the industries with the province regarding specific injury or disease. A number less than one indicates that the injury of the industries is lower than the provincial average; if equal to one it indicates the injury of the industries is the same as the provincial average and a number greater than one indicates that the injury of the industries is higher than the provincial average.

$$\frac{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries} \times \text{Industries' LTC Rate}}{\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province} \times \text{Provincial LTC Rate}}$$

Where:

$$\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Industries} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Industries (e.g. back injury)}}{\text{Total LTCs for the Industries}} \times 100$$

$$\text{Per cent of Total Claims for the Province} = \frac{\text{Number of LTCs for the Province (e.g. back injury)}}{\text{Total LTCs for the Province}} \times 100$$

Labour Force Survey

The Labour Force Survey (LFS) is a household survey carried out monthly by Statistics Canada. The objectives of the LFS have been to divide the working-age population into three mutually exclusive classifications (employed, unemployed, and not in the labour force) and to provide descriptive and explanatory data on each of these categories. Data from the survey provide

information on major labour market trends such as shifts in employment across industrial sectors, hours worked, labour force participation and unemployment rates.

For the most part, annual LFS data has been analyzed alongside injury and disease information to aid the understanding of injury risk or frequency by worker type. The LFS uses a different industry classification from WCB, although there are similarities in structure. Where possible, the two data sources are used comparably and proportions (of totals) have been used to evaluate information generated from both sources. Using proportions attempts to overcome obvious distortions in the numbers in employment from both sources, although the impact on the proportions from industry coverage differences is unclear. In certain instances, monthly LFS micro-data files have been combined and used to produce proportion estimates for the whole year for particular sub-groups of the population.

For further information on the LFS, please see
http://www.employment.alberta.ca/BI/2599.html

APPENDIX B: AMTA WCB CODES[13]

50701 – Specialized Trucking

50714 – General Delivery Services Trucking

57901 – Garbage and Waste Collection and Disposal Services

[13] Codes are Workers' Compensation Board industry codes.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Fax: 780-422-5070
Email: whs@gov.ab.ca

Employment and Immigration website:

http://employment.alberta.ca

Work Safe Alberta website:

www.worksafe.alberta.ca

Occupational Health and Safety Contact Centre:

Telephone: 780-415-8690, toll free by calling 1-866-415-8690

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/2874.html

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program:

http://www.employment.alberta.ca/SFW/334.html